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Disarmament Commission
2014 substantive session
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Agenda item 4

Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the Chairman

General guiding elements for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

1. The principles and purposes contained in the Charter of the United Nations together constitute the universal foundation for the maintenance of international peace and security in the pursuance of disarmament.

2. The Commission reaffirms the close interrelationship between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and that they are mutually reinforcing in achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

3. The Commission recalls the achievements of the disarmament machinery established at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, but expresses grave concern about the current status of the disarmament machinery, including the lack of substantive progress in the Conference on Disarmament for more than a decade. The Commission welcomes the efforts by Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament.

4. The Commission recognizes that multilateralism, including multilateral diplomacy, is essential for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Unilateral, bilateral, subregional and regional initiatives that are consistent with internationally agreed principles and objectives also contribute to the achievement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

5. The Commission recognizes that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among all States of the region concerned and, as appropriate, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session, enhances regional and international peace and security. Thus, efforts to strengthen existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as to establish new zones, enhance

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global and regional peace and security, strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

6. The Commission expresses deep concern at the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular at the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

7. The Commission notes the relevance of the five point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Recommendations

The Commission:

1. Urges all States to continue to commit to the promotion of international peace and security and to remain determined to achieve a world without nuclear weapons;

2. Urges the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body to agree on and implement as soon as possible a balanced and comprehensive programme of work;

3. Encourages Member States to explore options for facilitating the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on priority issues and for revitalizing the disarmament machinery. To this end, consultations on convening a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be intensified, in particular on its objectives;

4. Urges all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and to maintain their moratoriums in this regard, also urges the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and to this end, further urges those that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty;

5. Encourages all concerned States to sign and/or ratify the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their relevant protocols and to constructively consult and cooperate to bring about the entry into force of the relevant legally binding protocols of all such nuclear-weapon-free zones treaties, which include negative security assurances, and also encourages all concerned States to withdraw any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such treaties;

6. Reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and recognizes, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the legitimate interest of States to receive legally binding security assurances;

7. Calls upon all States concerned, pending the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty, to declare and uphold, on a voluntary basis, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, and encourages all States concerned to exert their utmost efforts, on the basis of the comprehensive and balanced programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, to start and conclude as soon as possible a fissile material cut-off treaty in accordance with the Shannon report (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein;

8. Calls upon all States to commit to strengthening the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the competent authority responsible for verifying compliance with IAEA safeguards agreements;

9. Stresses the importance of all States concluding safeguards agreements with IAEA in accordance with their respective obligations;

10. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with their non-proliferation obligations;

11. Recalls that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons decided, inter alia, that "the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, would convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States", and urges the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultations with the States of the region, to continue working with the facilitator to convene the Conference without any further delay as soon as possible;

12. Commends and further encourages the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, encourages all States to promote, in cooperation with civil society, disarmament and non-proliferation education, which, inter alia, contributes to raising public awareness about the tragic consequences of the possible use of nuclear weapons, and urges strengthening of the international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation towards achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.